

# Worker and Equipment Decontamination

WAC 296-843-150

## Summary

### YOUR RESPONSIBILITY:

**To make sure the necessary facilities and equipment for effective decontamination are available and used**

#### You must

Establish and implement decontamination procedures before any worker or equipment enters a contaminated area

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Provide showers and changing rooms

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Provide washing facilities

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Worker & Equipment  
Decontamination



# Worker and Equipment Decontamination

WAC 296-843-150

## Rule

**WAC 296-843-15005**

**Establish and implement decontamination procedures before any worker or equipment enters a contaminated area**

### You must

- Establish, implement, and communicate decontamination procedures to all workers, to include the following:
  - Standard operating procedures to minimize worker contact with:
    - Hazardous substances
    - Contaminated equipment
  - Decontaminating all:
    - Workers leaving a contaminated area
    - Equipment leaving a contaminated area
  - Decontaminating, cleaning, laundering, repairing, or replacing protective clothing or equipment (PPE) as needed to maintain effectiveness
  - Immediate removal of clothing, such as cotton coveralls, wet with hazardous substances and use of the nearest shower
    - Decontaminate or dispose of clothing before removal from the work zone.
  - Periodically monitoring procedures for effectiveness by the site safety and health supervisor
  - Correct your procedures when found ineffective
  - Establish decontamination areas to minimize contact of contaminated employees and equipment with uncontaminated employees or equipment
  - Make sure only authorized employees remove protective clothing or equipment from changing rooms
  - Inform commercial laundries or cleaning establishments about the potentially harmful effects from exposure to hazardous substances
  - Properly decontaminate or dispose of decontamination equipment and solvents.



# Worker and Equipment Decontamination

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## Rule

**WAC 296-843-15010**

### **Provide showers and changing rooms**

#### **You must**

- Provide changing areas and showers outside a contaminated area, when needed for worker decontamination, that include at least the following:
  - Separate changing areas:
    - One to provide a clean area where employees can remove, store, and put on street clothing with an exit leading off the work site
    - Another where employees can put on, remove, store, and dispose of work clothing and PPE with an exit leading to the work site.
  - A shower area separating the changing areas.
- Prevent clean areas from being contaminated by hazardous substances
- Provide and use other effective means for worker cleansing, if temperature conditions prevent the effective use of water
- Locate showers and change rooms where worker exposures are below permissible exposure limits (PELs) or other published exposure levels.
  - If this can't be accomplished, use a ventilation system to supply air that is below the PELs or published exposure levels.

**-Continued-**

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Decontamination**



**150-3**

04/04

# Worker and Equipment Decontamination

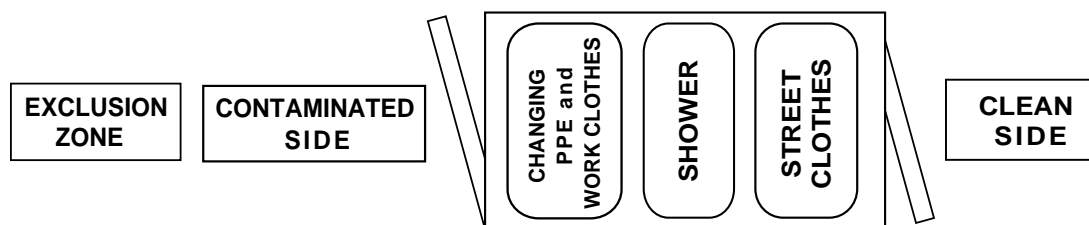
WAC 296-843-150

## Rule

### WAC 296-843-15010 (Continued)

- Make sure all workers shower at the end of their work shift or before they leave the site, when needed for worker decontamination.
  - Illustration 3 is a sample diagram of a change room layout.

**ILLUSTRATION 3  
CHANGE ROOM LAYOUT**



### WAC 296-843-15015

#### Provide washing facilities

##### You must

- Provide adequate washing facilities to employees working in hazardous waste operations that are:
  - Close and convenient to the work area
  - Located in areas where employee exposure is below PELs or other published exposure levels
  - Equipped so an employee can remove hazardous substances from themselves without assistance.

